The citizens of San Diego count on us to be prepared in the event of a disaster. We, as the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition and Support Services, proudly accept this challenge.

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**San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition**

This Month in the Coalition

*Each month at the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition (SDHDC), disaster preparedness professionals come together for in-depth, passionate dialogue about a range of topics. Here’s a glimpse at some of the discussion in March.*

- Medical Reserve Corps Requesting Process
- Red Cross Services for Survivors & Family Members
- Sharp Active Shooter Table Top After Action
- Medical Countermeasures

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**Trainings and Drills**

*First Receiver PPE and Decontamination for Healthcare Course*
March 30, 2017 0800-1700
Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla – Schaetzel Center Great Hall

*First Receiver Decontamination Awareness for Healthcare Course*
April 13, 2017 0800-1700
Sharp Healthcare – Medical Center Court

*Mass Casualty Decontamination Training for First Receivers*
May 19 & May 30, 2017 0800-1700
PMC Poway and PMC Escondido
In June 2016, Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center received notice from SDG&E regarding plans for a 14-hour electric service interruption to replace underground equipment. The work performed by SDG&E during this outage not only provided additional capacity required for our new tower scheduled to open in 2019, but also provided a greatly needed second circuit and replacement of 45-year-old cables. This work significantly lessened the chances of any future unplanned power outages.

The scheduled outage affected the main hospital, Birch Patrick Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and surrounding medical office buildings on campus. SDG&E let us choose the date and luck was with us: the initial date we chose and then rejected, Father’s Day, turned out to be one of the hottest weekends of the year! The following weekend when the outage took place was much cooler!

In the month prior to the planned outage, a multi-disciplinary team was assembled to develop preparations. Extensive arrangements developed to lessen the impact of the outage included:

- Emergency power would be provided to the main hospital by the facility’s two emergency generators with back-up rental generators on site and ready
- Methods of procedure were prepared for the event, including details of the steps taken for the actual transfer of power from normal power to generators and back
- The power needs of every department on campus were assessed and a summary of how the outage would affect each was prepared
- Each critical department was given a detailed summary of how the outage would affect them; including available utilities and services, and emergency power, as well as the plan for providing power for critical medical equipment and functions
- Each patient room type was evaluated to determine status and capabilities for providing patient care during the outage
- Every nourishment and medication refrigerator, Pyxis machine and nurses station was evaluated for power
- Lessons learned from the 2011 community-wide power outage were reviewed
- IT conducted audits of each hospital communication room to determine the level of emergency power redundancy available to network and telecommunications hardware; IT was able to remediate any deficiencies prior to the outage
- Letters were distributed to patients and SNF residents and families, notifying them of the outage and how they would be affected
- In the kitchen, each piece of equipment was reviewed to determine which would be operational during the outage
- As the kitchen was unable to prepare hot meals, special patient menus were created to adhere to all possible prescribed diet orders
- The Hospital Command Center was activated and staffed by our chief executive officer, chief nursing officer, director of critical care and director of quality improvement

Due to the thoroughness of our preparations, calls to the Hospital Command Center were few (less than 20) and minor in nature (i.e. additional lanterns, ice and bottled water). There were no patient care issues related to the outage despite its duration.